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ABSTRACT

Limericks and tongue twisters for learning short vowel sounds in English are presented in this illustrated booklet for speakers with limited English proficiency. After proclaiming that "English is so crazy it makes you want to cry," the book presents first the sounds of the English alphabet, then long and short vowels, a limerick for each of the five short vowels, and finally 22 tongue twisters. (LB) (Adjunct ERIC Clearinghouse on Literacy Education)

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# English is Crazy

## Limericks and Tongue Twisters for Short Vowels

by Rosanne Keller

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# English is Crazy

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Developed under a grant from RIGHT TO READ, U.S. Office of Education, Department of Health, Education and Welfare. No official endorsement by the U.S. Office of Education should be inferred.

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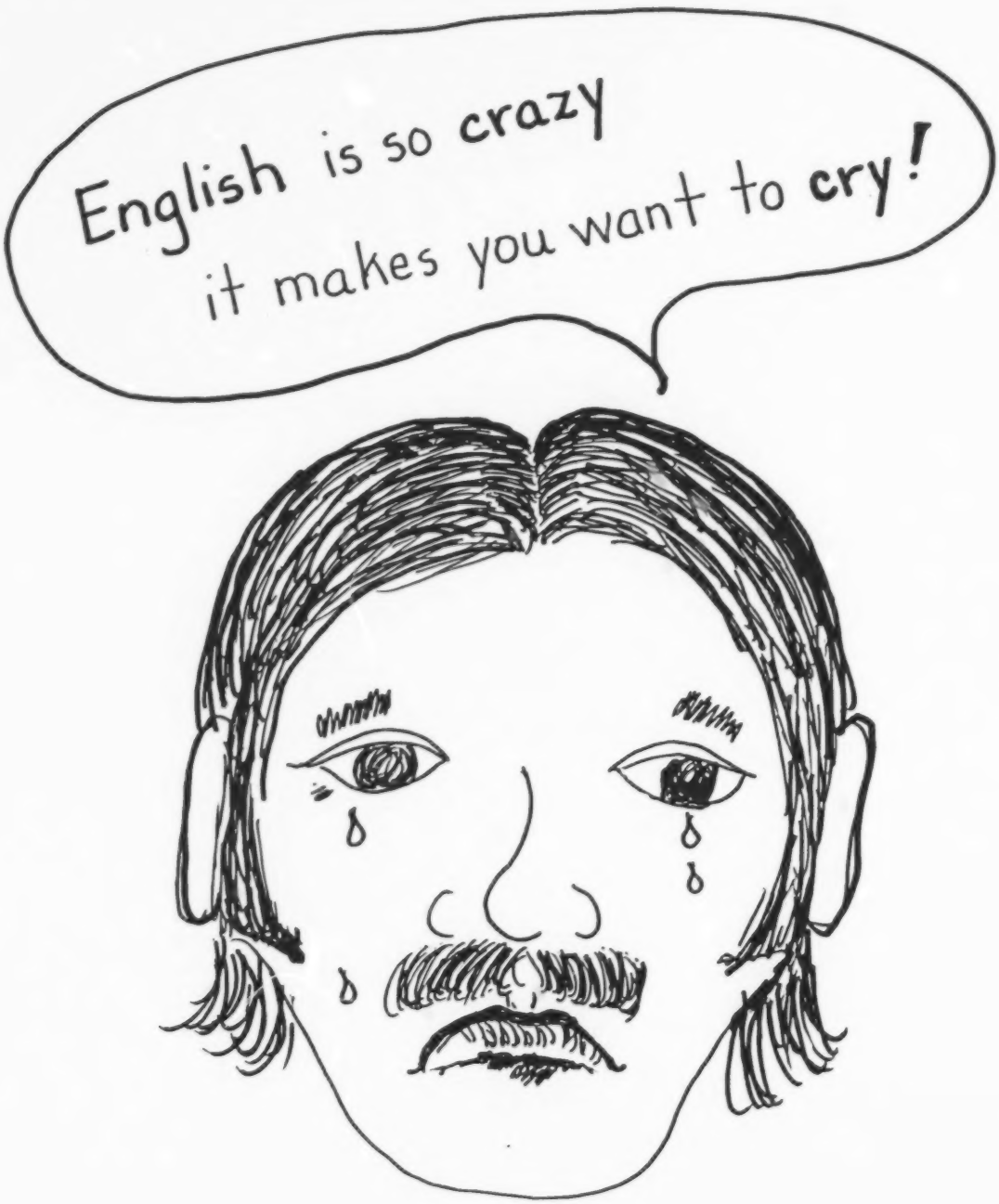




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# Sounds of the Alphabet

## Alphabet

a

b

c

d

e

f

g

h

i

j

k

l

m

a - mat
a - date
a - (ah) father
a - sofa

b - baby

c - (k) come
c - (s) city
ch- chin

d - did

e - bed
e - feet
er- anger

f - five

g - get

h - had
h - (silent) honest

i - hit
i - side
ir- (er) sir

j - jet

k - kid

l - lot

m - mat

# Alphabet

n
o
p
q
r
s
t
u
v
w
x
y
z

# Sounds of the Alphabet

n - not
ng- ring

o - hot
o - bone
oi- (oy) coin, boy
oo- wood
oo- cool

p - pepper

r - red

s - sat
s - (z) raise
sh- shy

t - tin
th- they
th- thing

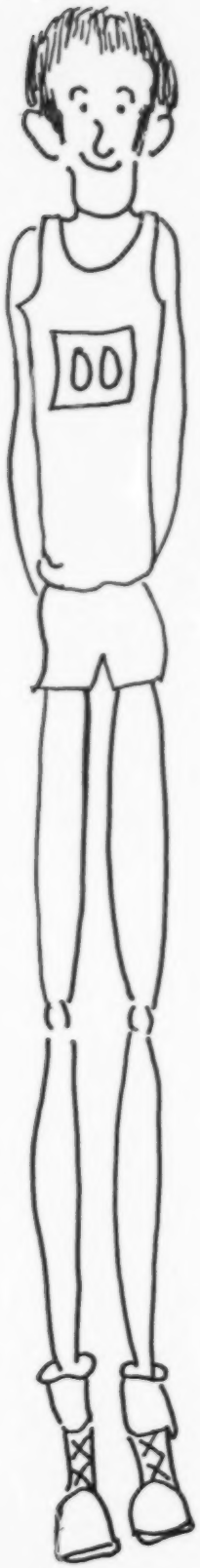
u - up
u - cute

v - very

w - was
wh- (hw) where

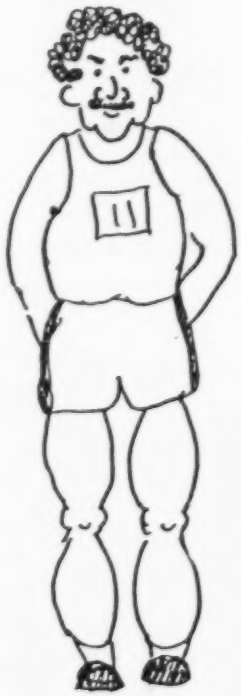
y - (ee) yard

z - zoo
zh- azure




# Vowels

## Long and Short



# Long Vowels

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| a | as in | paper |
| e | as in | we |
| i | as in | ice |
| o | as in | go |
| u | as in | pupil |

# Short Vowels

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| a | becomes → ă | as in | apple |
| e | becomes → ĕ | as in | egg |
| i | becomes → ĭ | as in | it |
| o | becomes → ŏ | as in | hot |
| u | becomes → ŭ | as in | up |

8

Short Vowel a

a-a-a-a-a

Short Vowel a with other letters

ap___ at___ ab___
ad___ af___ am___
an___ av___ ag___

Short Vowel a in words

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| fat___ | black___ | tack___ |
| rat___ | cat___ | back___ |
| Matt___ | bat___ | mat___ |
| pat___ | jab___ | dab___ |
| sat___ | dab___ | lab___ |

Short Vowel e

e-e-e-e-e

Short Vowel e with other letters

ep___ et___ eb___
ed___ ef___ em___
en___ ev___ eg___

Short Vowel e in words

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| red___ | hen___ | Nell___ |
| wet___ | fell___ | well___ |
| net___ | get___ | peck___ |
| neck___ | tell___ | beg___ |
| let___ | set___ | wed___ |
| never___ | clever___ | stead___ |

Short Vowel i

i-i-i-i-i

Short Vowel i with other letters

ip___ it___ ib___
id___ if_ _ im___
in___ iv___ ig___

Short Vowel i in words

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Bill___ | Wills___ | glib___ |
| fibber___ | libber___ | sip___ |
| tip___ | filled___ | brim___ |
| bibber___ | this___ | kiss___ |
| dishes___ | wishes___ | hip___ |
| miss___ | | |



ĭi

Short Vowel o

o-o-o-o-o

Short Vowel o with other letters

op___ ot___ ob___
od___ of___ om___
on___ ov___ og___

Short Vowel o in words

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| jogged___ | top___ | dock___ |
| Tom___ | got___ | rocks___ |
| sock___ | stop___ | sob___ |
| got___ | boppeu___ | gob___ |
| jock___ | hot___ | drop___ |
| rot___ | holler___ | aplomb___ |
| togs___ | hock___ | shop___ |

Short Vowel u

u-u-u-u-u

Short Vowel u with other letters

up___ ut___ ub___
ud___ uf___ um___
un___ uv___ ug___

Short Vowel u in words

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| dumb___ | duck___ | gum___ |
| fluff___ | muck___ | huff___ |
| stuck___ | fuzz___ | buzz___ |
| chewing___ | buff___ | struck___ |
| luck___ | hugged___ | up___ |
| result___ | funny___ | sunny___ |
| hum___ | | |

# LimericKs

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# ă

There was once a fat rat named Matt.
And a black cat who had a big bat.
The rat put a tack
When the cat turned his back
On the mat where the black cat sat.

The cat gave his bat a big pat,
and sat down to observe the fat rat.
He leaned back a dab
And got a bad jab
And Matt the fat rat got a laugh!

# ĕ

There was once a red hen named Nell,
Who got wet when she fell in a well.
Fred fox got a net,
Pulled her out just to get
A wet peck on the neck...we hear tell.

Fred begged Nell to be his...so he said.
And he let her get set to be wed.
But the wedding was never
Because foxes are clever.
She was found on his table instead!

# i

Bill Wills is a very glib fibber.
And his girl is a big womens' libber.
He tells of a sip,
But she knows from a tip
That he's filled to the brim, the wine bibber!

Bill's girl has a plan...it is this...
She goes off to work with a kiss.
Then Bill does the dishes
And sometimes he wishes
His girl wasn't such a hip miss!

17

# ŏ

As he jogged on the top of the dock,
Tom got some rocks in his sock.
He stopped with a sob,
Got out rocks by the gob
Then bopped on down the dock like a jock.

The dock it was hot up on top.
And Tom thought that he surely would drop.
"This is rot," hollered Tom.
And he turned with aplomb...
Dropped his jogging togs at a hock shop!

# ŭ

A dumb duck got some gum in his fluff.
The muck put the duck in a huff.
A bee eyed the stuck fuzz,
Pulled the gum with a buzz.
For the bee was a chewing gum buff.

The bee, quite struck with his luck,
Buzzed down and hugged up the duck.
The result wasn't funny
For when dark or when sunny,
The hum of the bee is gummed up.

# Tongue Twisters

# Tongue Twisters

1. The sixth sheep is sick.
2. Grow green Greek grapes.
3. Top truck traffic trap.
4. A kiss may be amiss
   But a miss who misses kisses
   May miss being a Mrs.
5. Fred fries five flying fish.
6. A cup of coffee in a copper coffee pot.
7. She sells seashells by the seashore.
8. A big black bug bit a big black bird.
9. Thin sticks, thick bricks.
10. Water is wetter in winter weather.
11. Sixty-six chicks are sick.
12. A quick slick kick or a slick quick kick?
13. A big blue barrel of big blue blueberries.
14. Rubber baby buggy bumpers.
15. Is the watch shop shut?
16. He threw thirty-three thumbtacks.
17. Does this shop sell socks with spots?
18. Kiss her quickly, then quicker.
19. The rat ran into the river with the liver.
20. Children should choose cheese.
21. Peter Piper picked a peck of pickled peppers.
    If Peter Piper picked a peck of pickled peppers,
    Where is the peck of pickled peppers Peter Piper picked?
22. How much wood would a woodchuck chuck,
    If a woodchuck could chuck wood?